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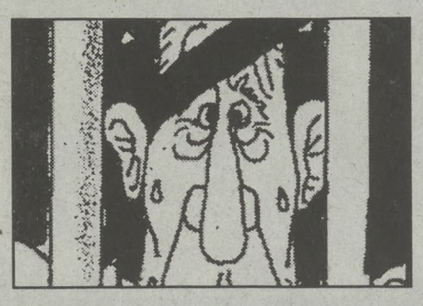

Three strikes and you're in

see page 2

Amoeba opens

see page 3

Monarchs start strong

see page 5

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The Valley Star

VOLUME 56, ISSUE NO.8 | NOVEMBER 28, 2001 | LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Flu Shots Offered for Students

BY MICHELLE FOGEL
STAR REPORTER

It seems winter's arrival is inevitable, bringing along the usual sneezing, coughing, headaches, and fevers that are associated with this changing season; So, it's no wonder concern has flourished over flu vaccinations.

"I hate getting sick," said Kate Lewis, a part-time student at Valley College. "I am so susceptible when it comes to the flu and people seem to forget to cover their mouths when coughing. I know I'll feel better once I get the flu shot."

It is not only Lewis who has been feeling this vaccination fever, but many other students on campus are contemplating whether the flu shot is right for them. The Los Angeles Times recently conducted a study that stated 45 percent of Americans are less likely to get the flu shot this year than in past years. The article went on to say how Americans in the 21st century are concerned more with their bodies and eating the right types of foods.

"I do believe that proper nutrition with the right vitamins, and exercise often does help to ward off sickness," said Dr. Fields of Encino. "However, the flu vaccination, as far as I'm concerned, does make a difference."

But is it safe?

Yes, but there is a chance that a person may experience similar characteristics as the flu, but rest assured because it is only the body adjusting to the vaccination. Students who are interested in getting the flu shot can go to the campus Health Center in the North Gym. It is open Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or call, 947-2918. The cost for the vaccination is $10.

Students can also call their health care providers or check with their local supermarkets, which are also offering the flu shots.

STAR PHOTO/SALVADOR AGUILAR

Flu season is here. The Student Health Center in the North Gym is offering flu shots to all students for a nominal fee of $10. Flu shots are offered Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students can also call, 947-2918 for an appointment. Flu shots are also available at local clinics and supermarkets.

Valley Receives $289,000 Grant

BY GEPETTO LAUNER
STAR REPORTER

Valley College recently received a $289,000 technology grant from the Department of Education that will provide career opportunities for students.

The money will fund the Career Options and Opportunities Ladder (C.O.O.L) and the College-Experience Career Recruitment (CECR) programs.

"If we do a good job, Valley College will be eligible for a second grant of $123,892," said Rodger McGinness, dean of academic affairs. "Valley will be eligible for a second grant of $123,892. McGinness added that Valley will earn a third grant of $53,097 if the second year proves successful. The three-year total would come to $466,000.

Out of nine industry sectors eligible for funding, Valley chose public order and safety. Some of the safety programs include training with the Los Angeles City Fire Department, the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

The program targets local high school students who attend Valley. Grant, Van Nuys and Monroe are three of the 13 high schools that participate in the program.

"The long-term goal of project C.O.O.L. is to increase enrollment of high school students into college courses with the potential that the students will advance to high-level careers in the public services sector," according to a press release issued by Cindy Sardo, Valley's public relations director.

McGinness said that Valley's CECR's program will be a clone of the already successful programs at West Valley, Los Angeles Harbor and East Los Angeles colleges.

"The key innovation of this 'model' CECR program is to entice 'at-risk or disadvantaged' high school students into a college environment and provide them with an opportunity to learn skills that will lead to a high-level, high

See **'GRANT'** on p. 4

Online Classes Attract Local Students

BY SKYLAR LENOX
STAR REPORTER

In the age of the World Wide Web, MP3s a and e-mail, more and more students are becoming online savvy. Colleges across America have started developing distance-learning courses for this ever-growing group.

"I'm excited about online courses because it provides an easy way, once teachers have learned the technology, to serve our students for what they need," said Marion G. Heyn, director of Academic Computing and distance learning at Valley College. And Heyn knows first-hand what an online student has to go through. She is getting her doctorate online through Cappella College.

> *"I find [teaching online] very rewarding. We can reach kids [who], for [various] reasons, can't take regular classes."*
>
> **-Jackie Harless Chang, on online courses**

Think these classes are going to be easier?

"Online courses are not easier," Heyn said. "In a face-to-face class you can listen and speak; in online classes you have to read and write. If someone is a very social person these classes are probably not for them. They will miss the human element."

The California Community College Chancellor's office made it clear that to offer an online course, the college in question must make sure that an on-campus and an online courses teach the same material.

"Everyone will get the same education online or on-campus," Heyn said. In the not-to-distant future, a student at Valley will have the ability to receive an AA degree without ever setting foot inside a classroom.

So what are the advantages and disadvantages of participating in online courses? As William Odom, an economics major, said, "I can do what I want well I take my class. I can do other things like eat and drink."

But you must be committed. Even though there is no set class, there are assignments each week. "I have to tell you," said Jackie Harless-Chang, who teaches typing online, "it has to be a very motivated student. It takes a particular student who is self motivated. It takes time."

Online courses have been offered at Valley for two semesters. Spring semester will bring a new class online, child development. "A lot of the departments have

See **'ONLINE CLASSES'** on p. 4

Gas Prices Plummet Throughout the Southland

BY SAMANTHA KUPPIG
STAR REPORTER

Gas prices at local stations have gone down to an average of $1.10 per gallon.

At Arco stations on Victory Boulevard and Haskell Avenue and on Sherman Way just west of Balboa Boulevard, the price for regular unleaded is $1.07 per gallon.

At the Union 76 station on Sherman Way and Haskell Avenue, the price for regular unleaded jumps two cents to $1.09 per gallon.

For more information on gas at the lowest prices in your area, log onto www.gaspricewatch.com.

"I go to Costco because it's cheaper and it's on my way to work," said liberal arts major Cindy Caviedes.

Crude oil prices dropped nearly 30 percent in the last two months amid a sharp downturn in the global economy and a slump in petroleum demand. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has made a commitment to cut oil production in an effort to stabilize falling prices. OPEC is asking that non-member countries, like Russia (the second largest oil producing nation in the world), Mexico and Norway to reduce their supply also. OPEC hopes to bring the price of a barrel of oil up to $22-28 from its current $17.00 per barrel.

According to an Associated Press article, in the past, Norway has cooperated with OPEC's price and production goals even though that country is not a member of the organization. Mexico has agreed to cut 100,000 barrels per day on the condition that OPEC scales back output by 1.5 million

See **'GAS PRICES'** on p. 4

STAR PHOTO/SALVADOR AGUILAR

Gas prices have fallen to an average of $1.10 in the southland. Prices are expected to rise after the first of the year due to a stabilization in the crude oil market.

Opinion

commentary

BY ROGELIO GARCIA

Recently, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that it was cruel and unusual punishment to sentence a man, Leonardo Andrade, to 50 years to life for committing his third strike by stealing $53 worth of videotapes from a department store.

Since its approval by the California State Legislature, the three strikes law has never been ruled unconstitutional by any court. As can be predicted, there will undoubtedly be tons of appeals by people who believe that their third strike did not merit their sentence. It is now left to the State Legislature to fix the three strikes law so that non-violent and minor offenses are not counted as a strike.

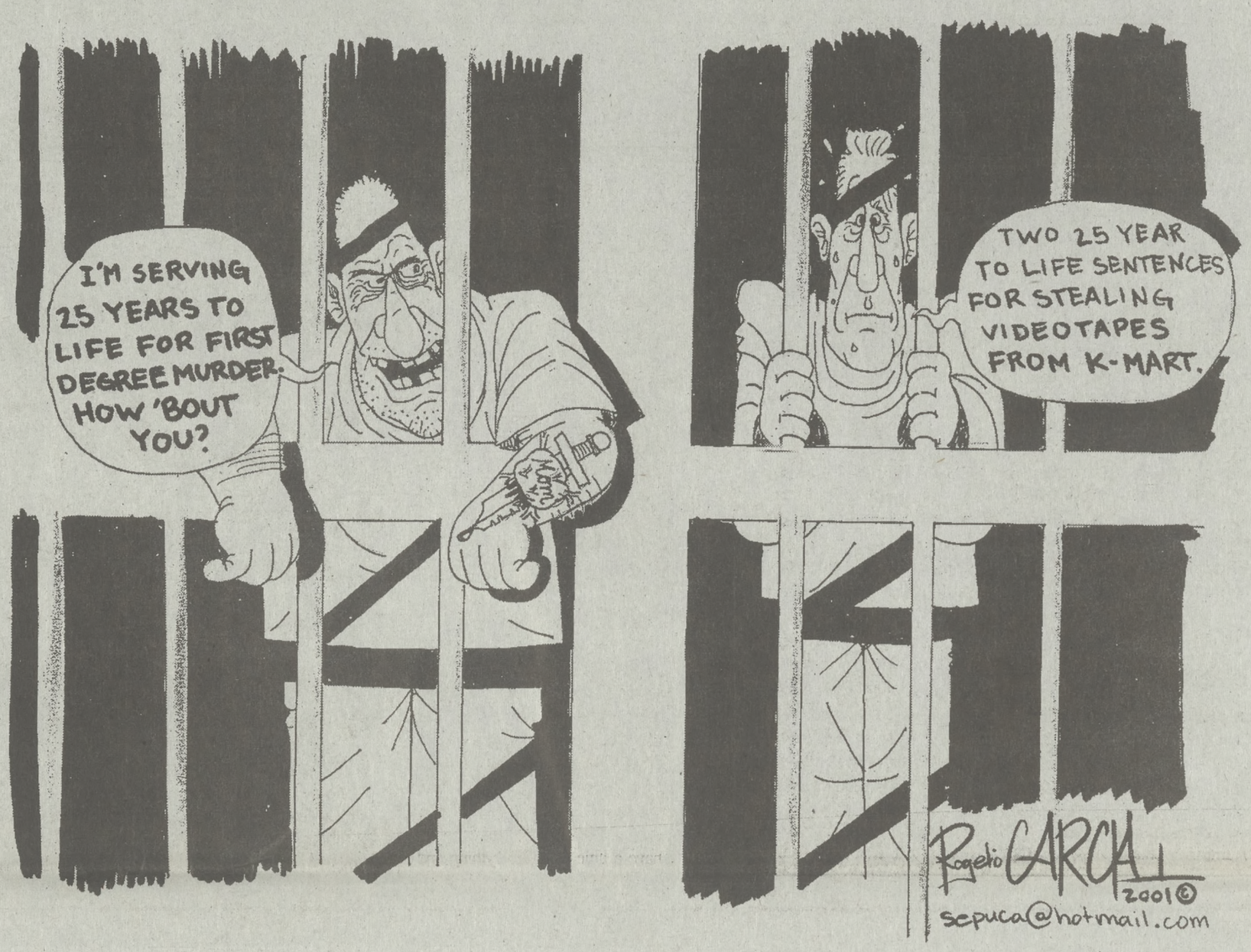
There are about 350 people in prisons across the state serving sentences of 25 years to life having their third strike being "petty theft." Erwin Chemerinsky, who defended Andrade, said that this these cases are typical. "[Andrade] was never convicted of any violent crime," Chemirinsky said. Andrade's record shows that he commited three burglaries on the same day in 1983, for which he served time. He also had a marijuana conviction that was not counted as a strike. More recently, Andrade was caught stealing videotapes from a Kmart in 1996.

Unfortunately according to California law, Andrade's crime was ruled as petty theft and is thus considered as a misdemeanor, which carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail. Furthermore, the maximum sentence for two petty theft convictions is one year. However, if there is a previous felony conviction, the misdemeanor is counted as a FELONY. In other words, the state counts the convictions twice. First it is converted into a felony, then into a third strike.

In Andrade's case the judge imposed to two 25 years to life sentences, or 50 years to life. However, the 9th Circuit pointed out that only first-degree murders and other violent crimes are punishable by such a sentence. Sadly, the appeals court has made it very clear that only Andrade's case was unconstitutional. The court wrote a careful opinion asserting that the court was not condemning the three strikes law. They also gave no indication of how to handle similar cases.

The three-strikes law was intended to keep violent criminals off the streets for a long time. There is absolutely no indication that voters who passed this law ever intended for the law to count non-violent crimes as well.

The U.S. Supreme Court is clear on the issue of clear and unusual punishment and that is that it is unconstitutional according to the Eighth Amendment. Therefore, it is my contention that a sentence of 25 years to life is cruel and unusual punishment. Anyone who disagrees are themselves "cruel and unusual."


I'M SERVING 25 YEARS TO LIFE FOR FIRST DEGREE MURDER. HOW 'BOUT YOU?
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Rogelio GARCIA 2001©
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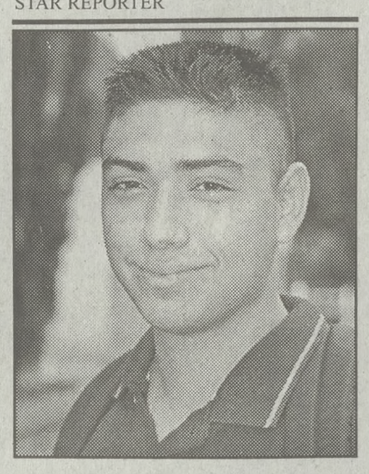
CampusView

Would you be interested in taking classes online and if so, which ones?

BY MARCY PETRIQUE
STAR REPORTER

STAR PHOTOS/MARCY PETRIQUE

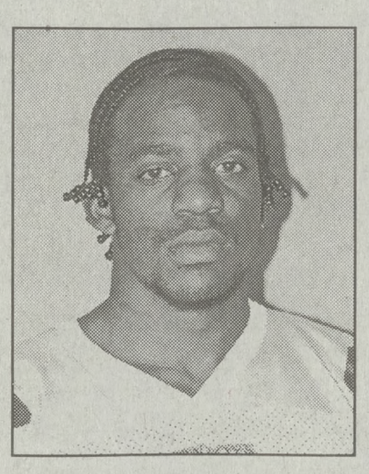


"I don't think I'd be interested in them because I'm never home. I'm always doing something and if I don't have to go to school, I'd be out doing something fun..., but if I had to take it, I'd probably take some kind of music course."

Dante Escamilla
Political Science

"Yes, I'd be interested and of course I'd like to take classes that have to do with my major. I would like to take dance history and injury prevention. That would be really interesting because those things you have to read up on a lot."

Rachel Austin
Choreography/Dance



"Oh yeah. You don't have to stay in line, fight with people, or get mad about somebody taking the class you want. Plus it would be quicker to do it that way. And the classes? I would take whatever interests me."

Kameron Fields
Physical Education

"Yeah, I would and it would be sociology. Any boring class I would take at home, but I would rather come to school and socialize with people."

Maryam Sesay
Psychology

Write a letter to the editor
StareditorsLAVC@hotmail.com
Please include your name and telephone number
Letter may be edited. Deadline: Friday 4:30 p.m.

Find The Valley Star online!
http://www.lavalleystar.com

Campus Scene

■ **Career/Transfer Center**
Do you have questions about your major, career, or the transfer process? Visit the Career/Transfer Center in Administration 126 or call (818) 947-2646 on **Mon. between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., Wed. and Thur. between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Take advantage of resources offered including college applications, transfer workshops, online college catalogs, internet access, career planning courses and much more.

■ **Student Health Center**
Mon.- Fri. opens 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wed. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

■ **Volunteering Opportunities**
Service Learning is joining forces with local community agencies to support the nation during this time of crisis by asking students to volunteer their time to help in the relief efforts. To volunteer your time and give back to the community, call Joyce Romero or Rick Brossman in the Counseling Office at (818) 947-2644

■ **UC and CSU Application Filing Period**
Nov. 1st through Nov. 30th.

■ **UC Berkeley Representative**
Nov. 28, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Administration 126.

■ **Kadima String Quartet**
Thurs Nov 29, 11:30 am Music Recital Hall

■ **"Arsenic and Old Lace"**
Thurs.-Sat. Nov. 29-Dec. 1 and Dec. 6-8, 8 p.m. Main Stage. Admission Charge.

■ **UC and CSU Representative**
UC Los Angeles **Nov. 29, 9 a.m.-3:30p.m.** Administration 126.
CSU Northridge Representative **Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 5 p.m.-7p.m.** Administration 126.
CSU Dominguez Hills Representative **Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** Administration 126.
CSU Channel Islands Representative **Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.** Administration 126.

■ **Choral Holiday Concert**
Jennifer Kelley, conductor. **Thurs. Dec. 2, 7 p.m.** Monarch Hall. Admission Charge

■ **LAVC College Choir and Chamber Singers**
Jennifer Kelley, conductor. **Thurs. Dec. 6, 11:30 a.m.** Music Recital Hall

■ **Planetarium Show**
"The Heart of the Milky Way." **Fri. Dec. 7, 8 p.m.** Planetarium. Admission charge.

■ **LAVC Guitar Ensemble**
Robert Mayeur, director. **Fri. Dec. 7, 8 p.m.** Music Recital Hall. Admission Charge.

■ **LAVC Wind Ensemble**
Michael Mertens, conductor. **Mon. Dec 10, 8 p.m.** Main Stage.

■ **LAVC Jazz Ensemble**
Woody James, director. **Wed. Dec.12, 11:30 a.m.** Music Room 112.

Mega Music Store Opens Its Doors

COURTESY OF ERINN SHMAEFF

Huge crowds swarmed into Amoeba Music record store on Saturday Nov. 17. The store, known for a vast selection of new and used CDs is located in the heart of Hollywood on Sunset and Cahuenga. The store spans more than 30,000 square feet.

BY CATHLEEN KENNEDY
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Music mania was the scene on the corner of Sunset and Cahuenga Nov. 17 with a crowd that stretched a half mile down the street. Amoeba Music has arrived.

"I have had the date marked on my calendar for a year," said Andrasta Vangaea. "I was here at 8:30 in the morning because they have a little bit of everything and something for everyone."

The first person showed more than six hours before the 10:30 a.m. grand opening.

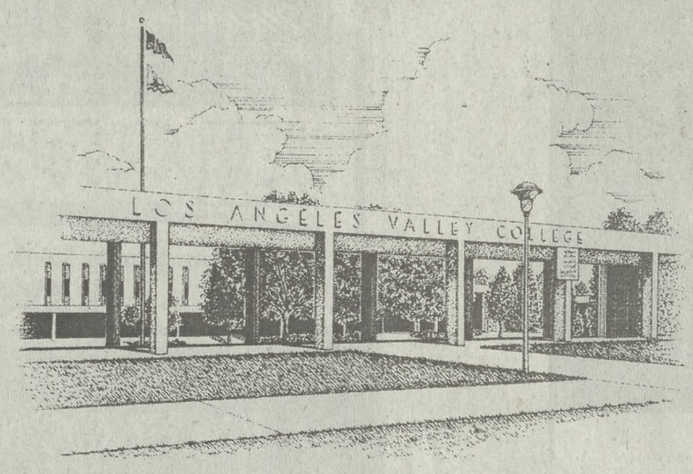
"It took twelve minutes for the people to walk through the door," said Kara Lane, director of promotion and instores at the 6400 Sunset Boulevard. store. "We had to say no to a few celebrities and music people who wanted to shop early; this would not be fair to our customers."

Rolling Stone magazine called Amoeba "the world greatest record store." The new store, which is more than 30,000 square feet, has about 120 employees.

Amoeba started in Berkeley, Calif. in 1990. A second store soon followed, opening in San Francisco. They were inspired by many of the great record stores and started at a time when huge chain stores were mercilessly swallowing up smaller chain and independent stores, depriving many communities across the country of the opportunity to have a personal connection with their music retailers.

Amoeba wanted to give their customers a chance to find music other than what the major labels wanted to see. They focus on customer service, with a knowledgeable staff who understands how important their customers relationship with their music is.

See 'AMOEBA MUSIC on p. 4



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'Online Classes' *continued from page 1*

been asking me about online-courses," Heyn said. "The music department might teach a History of Music [course] online in the fall [2002] semester."

Putting a class online is not simply a matter of scanning materials into a computer and submitting paperwork announcing a new class will be offered. The class and materials have to be ok'd by the Teacher Senate, a group of teachers that votes on different measures and new classes. The teachers must also be trained to teach online courses. There have already been three workshops for Valley instructors and two more scheduled this year.

To have an online class there must be a website to get information, instruction and materials from. The California Virtual Campus will be hosting all of Valley's classes. "My students have to have a password to get on to the Web site, " said Brenda Ingram-Cotton, who teaches Microsoft Office 2000. All grade books, test and assignments will be listed online.

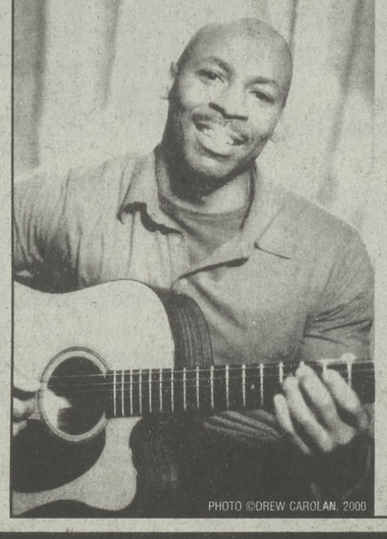
"If a student isn't doing well in a class they will be able to look at their grade books and drop the class in time" Heyn said.

"I find [teaching online] very rewarding," Harless-Chang said. "We can reach kids [who], for [various]reasons, can't take regular classes." As of now, there are six classes being offered in the spring semester.

'Grant' *continued from page 1*

paying career in public services."

Students who participate in this project will attend weekend academies at the college conducted by career professionals from participating industries who will train students to learn real job skills. Students will enroll concurrently in Valley College courses so they can matriculate directly into the college career path, according the press release.

KEVIN EUBANKS ON CANCER PREVENTION

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Promoting vegetarian foods as a prescription for life
www.CancerProject.org
202-686-2210, ext. 306

'Gas Prices' *continued from page 1*

barrels a day on Jan. 1 as previously promised. Russia on the other hand has committed to cutting a small fraction of total production per day. Russia produces 7 million barrels and will cut only 300,000 barrels. The Russian government said that for the remainder of the year companies would cut 500,000 barrels per day. OPEC was hoping for a cut three times that size.

So what does this all mean for us as consumers in the United States? The United States imports more than half of the oil it uses, and 28 percent of its imports come from the Persian Gulf region. The tensions that have developed as a result of the terrorist acts of Sept.11 are causing concern for our import of oil from that region. The United States will depend heavily on oil form OPEC nations in the next two years.

For now, the price of gas is low. The cost of regular unleaded around the southland is $1.09-$1.25 per gallon.

According to an Los Angeles Times article, scientists are seeking new energy sources in methane hydrates found in deep ocean sediments.

"We're investing in it because of the interest in trying to limit or reduce the amount of reliance that we have on foreign energy sources," said Peter McGrail, a staff scientist at the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Hydrates have been located under the tundra in Alaska and Canada, and under the ocean floor off the coast of Oregon, the Carolinas and in the Gulf of Mexico.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the estimated value of gas hydrates in the U.S. is 320,000 trillion cubic feet of gas, 200 times conventional natural gas resources and reserves in the country.

The goal is to find a way to produce useable methane gas in a safe and cost-effective way.

As with anything else, there are setbacks concerning the production of this product as far as cost effectiveness is concerned.

'Amoeba Music' *continued from page 3*

"It's about treating people with respect," said Mo Figuls, store manager. "It's really a store that is owned by collectors and its about being part of a community."

Amoeba's staff consists of L.A.'s most passionate connoisseurs of all musical exploration.

"I used to work at Tower Records, but it doesn't compare to here," said Cynthia Evans, an employee from the Berkeley store. "Amoeba Music goes all over the country collecting. We do house calls for big collections or customers bring their stuff to us."

"One stop shopping," said Brad McDonald, an employee who sued to work at Virgin Records. "We have everything you could possible want: music, DVD's, vinyl, rare imports, posters, out-of-print items and new releases that are two or three dollars less than normal."

Amoeba guarantees its products to play perfectly. Buying from their store means you can get more for your money. You can also feel good about yourself, knowing that a portion of proceeds from every sale goes to preserve rainforest land for indigenous people.

"I visit the San Francisco store when I'm on tour, all the time," said Clyde Crimes, the guitar player for the Untouchables. "With my music band 1-zero this is the perfect place to get inspiration."

Amoeba Music is very supportive of bands. They stock many local bands CD's and music in the store. They also have live bands scheduled to play at least once a week.

Amoeba Music is a must see for music lovers. Their uniqueness for buying, selling and trading is something Hollywood has not experienced. With tons of nuggets hiding in pockets all around! Happy hunting!!

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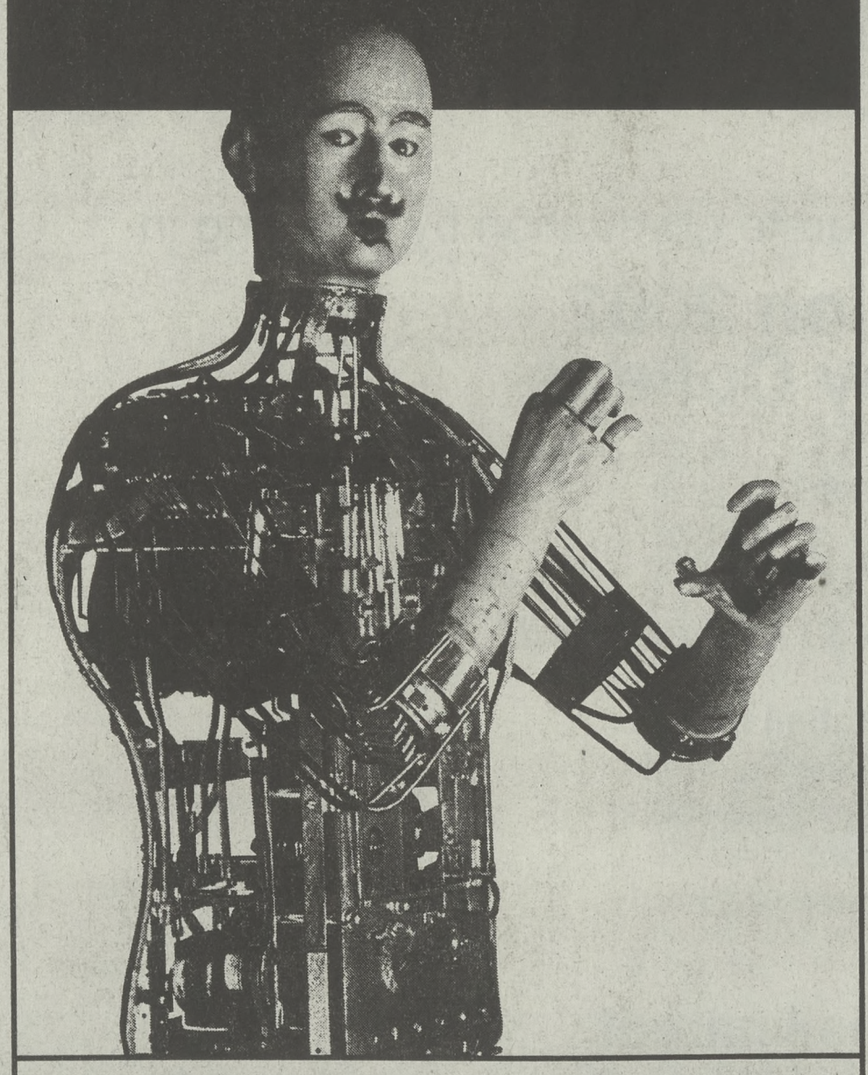
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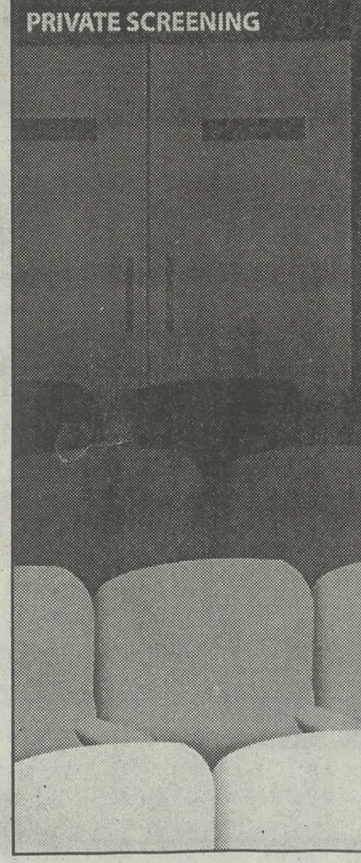
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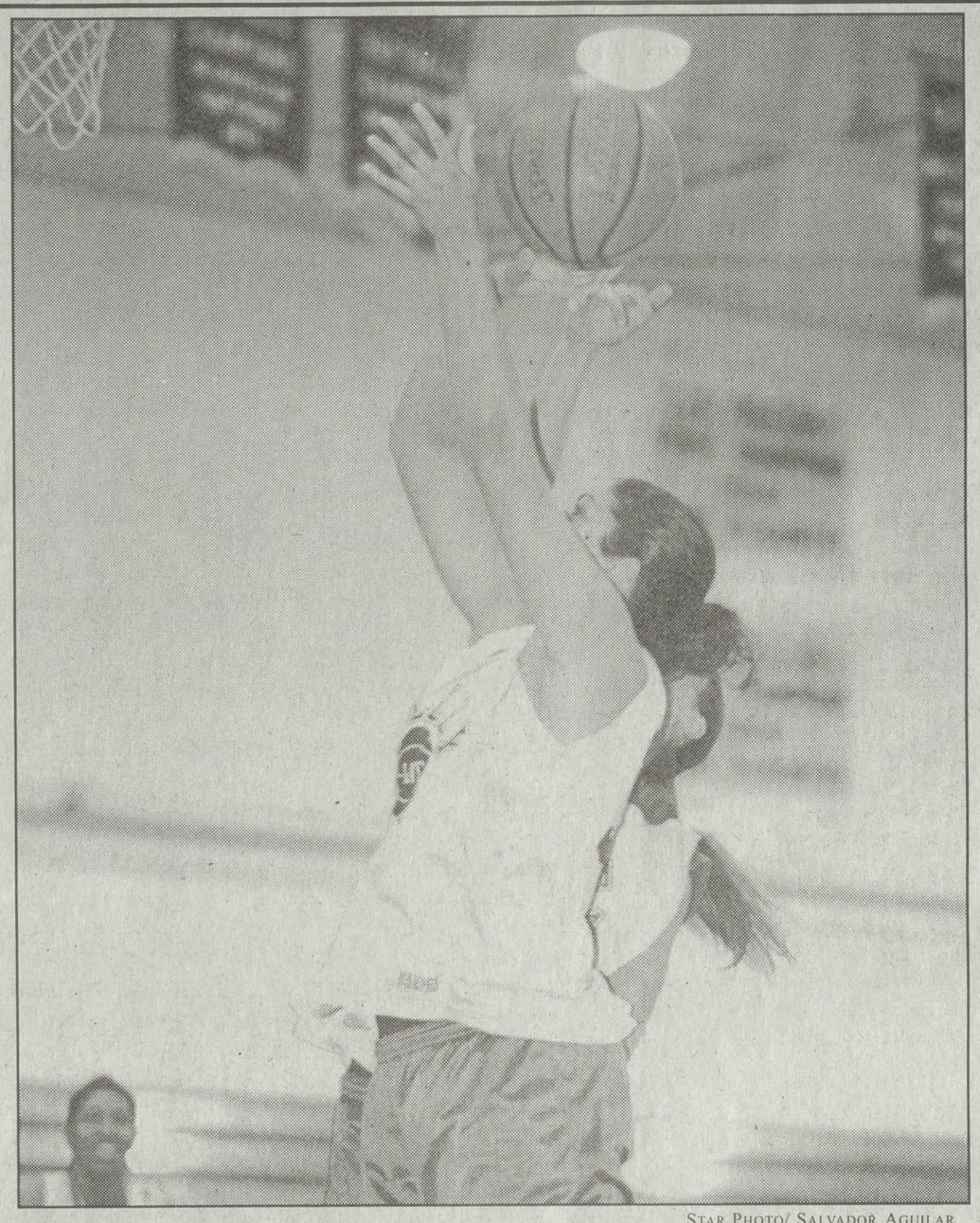
Train On the Run

BY LEVON DAVIS
STAR REPORTER



STAR PHOTO/ SALVADOR AGUILAR

The women's team practiced Monday before their big game against L.A. Pierce College. The Lady Monarchs are ranked top 10 in the state.

This year the Valley Monarchs women's basketball team is making a new mark in the history books. They are off to an undefeated season.

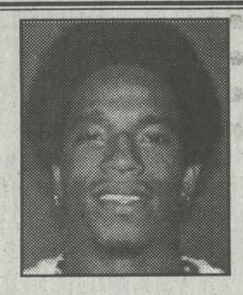
Starting their season ranked 13 in the state the Lady Monarchs have improved their status and proved they are hard to beat. In their first game, they played El Camino College in the San Diego Mesa Classic. They shot right past El Camino with a 78 to 44 win. In game two of the tournament, they faced Cerritos, who was ranked fifth in the state at that time. Not showing any sign of fatigue from the night before, they won with an 18-point margin. After a 70 to 52 win over Cerritos they went to bed knowing they would have to face the fourth ranked team in the state, Contra Costa College. Contra Costa got a handful, and could not pull out a win, The Lady Monarchs pulled together their third straight win, a tournament championship and an MVP. In this tournament Makia Derby was awarded MVP honors with an inspired performance. This season Derby is averaging a team high of 16 points per game, and 6 rebounds.

After making a solid showing in their season opener, the Lady Monarchs traveled to Merced. In the Merced tournament the Monarchs would only face one top twenty team, in Merced College. The first game the Monarchs faced Oxnard College. Oxnard stood in front of a moving train on a mission and didn't survive. The Monarchs defaced Oxnard with a 66 to 47 win. On the next night, now having played four games in six nights, the Monarchs would face seventh ranked Merced College. Merced was hoping the Monarchs train would slow down so they could get on, but head coach Mike Muro let his players loose without brakes. The Monarchs would go on to beat Merced 63 to 52 and travel right through Reedley College to win the Merced Tournament. In a 73-53 win over Reedley, the Lady Monarchs would be ranked 2nd in the state. Another Monarch player would acquire MVP honors. Michelle Duncan was crowned tournament MVP; Duncan has averaged 12 points per game, a team leading 12 rebounds and 5 blocks per game.

The Lady Monarchs this year have pulled together for a full team effort. They have three players who are averaging double digits a game and three players averaging six or more rebounds per game. Their dynamic duo that operates like Shaq and Khobe, together they have averaged 28 points a game and an over whelming 18 rebounds. As a team they are a 48 percent from the field and 27 percent from the 3-point line. In six games they have gone to the line 170 times, averaging 28.3 free throw attempts per game. The beginning of this season has been a real thrill and the Monarchs hope to continue their success. "I'm very happy about the way we're playing, and right now we are firing on all cylinders, and the potential is to become much better," coach Muro said when asked about his teams performance.

The Lady Monarchs plan to take the rest of their season one team at a time and improve at every chance they get. Now they have a top 10 ranking in state they hope to ride their train all the way to state.

Making of A Man



BY LEVON DAVIS
SPORTS EDITOR

It was 1993 and I was 13 years old, watching the Michigan Fab Five play Duke in the national championship. I cried as I watched Chris Webber take lumbering steps into the long dark hallway, looking at nothing but the tears falling from his face. It was over.

During that NCAA season, I grew to love their story, the Fab Five that is. They came together to form one of the greatest teams in the history of college basketball, the way they captivated the nation with their new style of dress, cocky attitudes, and in your face basketball. Chris Webber, Jalen Rose, Juwan Howard, Jimmy King, and Ray Jackson aligned themselves as the first freshman class starters in NCAA history to go to the Final Four.

The first time all five were on the court together in Michigan, the upper classmen challenged the new superstar recruits. The Fab Five won, and it was the start of something very special. I was 12 and it was my first year playing organized basketball. Each Saturday, I watched them play on CBS. Each week I would sit on my mom's old hazy blue couch with a basketball in my hand and envision my moves as though I were part of their team. Jackson would bring the ball up the court in his shiny yellow uniform, baggy pants to his knees, and black socks. They ran the motion offense so smoothly as though they had been playing for years, as though they were a family that was separated at birth catching up on old times.

As the season grew, my attention would be focused more and more on Webber. He was always the man of the hour, talked big game and always backed it up with big play. A 6-10 giant with golden hands like Ozzie Smith of the St. Louis Cardinals. He was kid from the Detroit projects who was considered the best prospect in the country. Along with three of the other players, he was a high school McDonald's All-American. Through all the hype and all the talk I could see his innocence. He want to be respected by his peers and elders. The look of a toddler who falls down and waits to be told it's all right to stand up on his own.

Their first season went by and Webber showed the world that he was a man to be reckoned with. They went to the Final Four, squeezing by Nick Van Exel and his Cincinnati Bearcats. Then losing to Duke in the championship game.

The next season was a blur for me, but as I watched them play North Carolina in the championship game, I saw a man, who was a boy the year before. As Webber ripped of his warm-up jersey, he looked up at the crowd as if he were thinking "How far I've come." The game came down to the final minutes and it came down to the Webber earning his manhood. Howard threw the ball out of bounds, he was looking over the floor and couldn't find anyone to pass it to, then came Webber. Howard threw Webber the ball, who clinched it with all ten of his fingers. He took a step, he traveled, no whistle? Webber hesitated, dribbled down the floor with a sense of desperation, a sense of confusion. He dribbled straight to the corner, looked to his teammates with helpless eyes and called a timeout. Just for second everything was ok. The whistle blew again? Technical foul. The Fab Five had no more timeouts. They ended up losing the game.

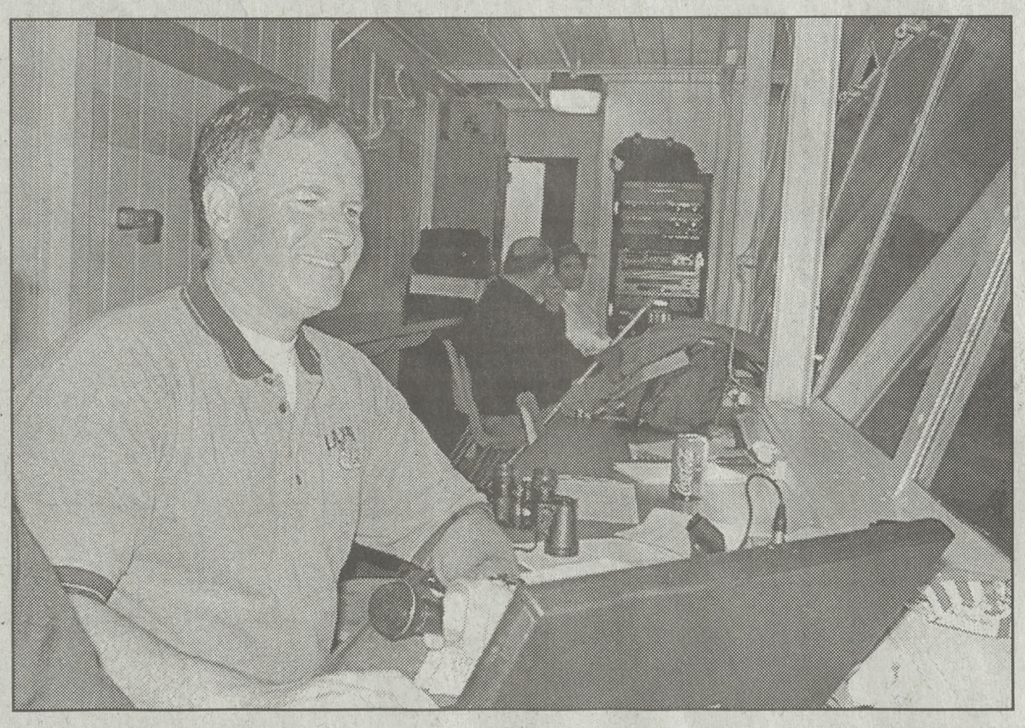
Webber sat in the press conference with two ways to go, be a man and go on, or wait for someone to tell him its ok to get up. That year he decided to go to the NBA. He is a man now, holding another team on his shoulders. Webber has made himself one of the best power forwards in the game, and continues to improve.

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."

-- Robert Lee Frost

Valley Basketball Teams Ready to Sound Off

BY PEDRO OLIVERA
STAR RREPORTER



STAR PHOTO/ ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Sports information director Dale Beck is operating the new sound sytem in the control for a boys basketball game.

The Valley College Monarchs men and women's basketball teams are just beginning what should be exciting runs to the state championships. Both teams are stockpiled with talent and ranked high in the state. It's been that way for the last couple of years. Both teams have been perennial powerhouses in the Western State Conference.

About the only complaint that could have been made about the teams in the past is the outdated sound system in the South Gym. "The old system was about 30 years old and it finally went defunct," said athletic director Chuck Ferrero. " We had to get a new system out of necessity."

The new sound system Ferrero refers to was purchased by Valley from GC Systems out of Sun Valley. It comes with a CD player, eight-channel auto-mixer, and hand-held microphone. To ensure that the sound is as up to date as the new system, Valley also purchased new speakers, which were placed on the rafters.

" With the new sound system and new speakers, you can hear everything clear as a bell in any corner of the gym," said Ferrero. "For the first time in 15 years you, can finally hear what the announcer is saying."

To go along with the new equipment, Valley acquired a state of the art Game Ops computer program. The computer software is marketed by the NBA's Portland Trailblazers and is used by several professional teams, including the Oakland Raiders.

The software enables Valley's Sports Information director and play-by-play announcer Dale Beck to control the sounds of the games from a lap top computer. "I can control everything from the scorer's table on the floor," said Beck. "If I want to play the National Anthem, all I have to do is point the mouse and click on it.

" The program also has the ability to play music while I'm talking. The old program couldn't do that. I can also record voice messages and play them over the loud speakers."

The new equipment should enhance what already is an entertaining event at the men and women's basketball games. Valley not only has championship caliber basketball on the floor, but it now has quality entertainment in the stands. With the teams Valley has fielded for this season coupled by the new entertainment system, Monarch fans should really enjoy themselves.

On the Field

Girls Basketball

Nov. 29 - Dec2.
Sequoias Tournament @Visalia

Dec. 6- 8 Moorpark Tournament @ Moorpark

Mens Basketball

Nov 29 - Dec 1- OrangeCoast Classic @ Costa Mesa

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